



Landeshauptstadt
München



Climate City Contract

Commitment

NET
ZERO
CITIES



Table of contents

1	The Munich Climate Mission	3
2	Binding targets: Climate-neutral city by 2035.....	5
3	Strategic priorities	6
4	Liveable, Equitable, Productive and Ecological.....	8
5	Governance and Engagement of Stakeholders	10
6	Principles for Action	12
7	Signatories.....	15



1 The Munich Climate Mission

Cities are uniquely positioned to spearhead climate action and drive innovation on a global scale, as they account for over 70% of global CO₂ emissions and approximately 75% of EU citizens. Embracing the transition to climate neutrality presents a transformative opportunity for urban areas to redefine how we live, work, and connect while fostering new jobs and business models that contribute to a sustainable future. Munich is committed to leading the charge in addressing climate challenges. This commitment involves drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions to become carbon neutral and ensuring that decarbonization efforts also enhance the liveability, equitability, productivity, and ecology of Munich for all residents.

With this ambition, Munich pioneers the transition towards climate neutrality, but is not on its own. The European Union has set ambitious emission goals through the European Green Deal and created five so-called Missions as part of the Horizon Europe program to make rapid progress on Europe's most pressing challenges. The **Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission** – officially abbreviated as **Cities Mission** – aims to establish climate-neutral urban centres in all European member states, positioning them as hubs for experimentation and innovation that can inspire others. The NetZeroCities platform supports cities in translating climate ambition into actionable plans and provides tailored expertise and services that empower urban areas to overcome structural, institutional, and cultural barriers to achieving climate neutrality. It also facilitates collaboration and exchange between the 112 Mission Cities from EU member states and associated countries.

The **Landeshauptstadt München (LHM)** implements the European Cities Mission locally under the title **Munich Climate Mission (*Münchner Klimamission*)**, which empowers all stakeholders in Munich individually and collectively to co-create local climate action and foster collaboration across sectors. It focuses efforts on the common goal of reaching climate neutrality within a decade, while propelling the city forward towards prosperity, liveability, equitability, and ecological sustainability. This can only be achieved via **orchestration**, where every stakeholder receives resources and opportunities to individually contribute their voice and ideas, their creativity and innovation capacity and their best efforts to act and implement action on the ground – while at the same time amplifying synergies and collaboration so that the combined impact of all climate actions of Munich's stakeholders together becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

Munich's instrument to achieve this collaborative vision is the **Climate City Contract (CCC) (*dt.: Klimastadtvertrag*)**. It consists of this **1) Commitment Document**, an **2) Action Plan** and an **3) Investment Plan**. This **Commitment Document** affirms and details the commitment of each signatory to the ambitious climate goals of the city, highlighting the collaborative efforts necessary to drive meaningful change. It remains unchanged for the duration of the Cities Mission and provides a



consistent and reliable foundation for a growing number of stakeholders to formally join the Munich Climate Mission and express their commitment to Munich's common climate neutrality goal. The **Action Plan and Investment Plan** serve as "living document" annexes to this Commitment Document and continuously evolve through constant iteration and the joint efforts of all stakeholder groups in the city.

The Action Plan details Munich's journey from the baseline GHG-Inventory (2018) all the way to its climate neutrality target for 2035, defines clear actions, projects, and measures to be taken across all sectors as well as the processes for monitoring and governance of the Munich Climate Mission. The Investment Plan details the cost and financing side of the city's climate transition, describing the needs and opportunities across all necessary projects and actions to be adequately financed or funded for timely implementation. Both documents in combination provide an opportunity for all stakeholder groups from municipal government, business, academia, and civil society to co-create contributions to the Munich Climate Mission and jointly attempt to close the large funding and investment gap to advance Munich's transformation.

An updated version of the CCC including newly added stakeholder commitments and an up-to-date and revised version of the Action Plan and Investment Plan is provided and submitted to the European Commission every two years. A detailed plan and governance mechanism for this process is described within the Action Plan as part of every iteration.

Munich's **Climate City Contract** demonstrates how all stakeholders from local government, businesses, civil society, academia, and citizens, come together as a city and harness their collective power to not only respond to the climate crisis, but to build a sustainable, equitable, prosperous, productive, liveable, just, and resilient future for all of Munich's citizens and for generations to come.



2 Binding targets: Climate-neutral city by 2035

In response to global failure to progress towards the climate mitigation targets set by the Paris Agreement and the loud voice of Munich's citizens expressed in over 50 climate demonstrations in one year, Munich formally declared a climate emergency in December 2019 with a groundbreaking Decision of Principle¹ with the following key decision:

- Munich Declares a climate emergency in the city
- Munich will achieve climate neutrality for municipal government operations by 2030
- Munich will achieve climate neutrality for the entire city by 2035
- Munich will develop an action plan (Maßnahmenplan) to reach climate neutrality by 2035
- Munich will apply to participate in the EU Cities Mission²
- Munich will monitor the progress on its climate target in a publicly accessible manner

Since 2021, Munich's climate targets and governance mechanism are set into law in form of a municipal Climate Statute (*Klimasatzung*), the strongest form of legislative instrument available to local governments in Germany. The „*Satzung zur Umsetzung sozial gerechter Klimaziele auf dem Gebiet der Landeshauptstadt München (KlimaS)*“, explicitly sets the following targets for Munich:

“§ 4 Objectives

The City of Munich establishes the organizational, legal, and financial framework within its sphere of influence to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) Climate neutrality for the city and its municipal companies by the year 2030;
- (b) Climate neutrality within the entire area of the City of Munich by 2035; and
- (c) Adaptation of the City of Munich to the consequences of climate change.

Based on these binding targets, Munich applied to the EU Cities Mission by submitting its Expression of Interest (EoI) to the European Commission and was subsequently chosen as Mission City in 2022.

Concretely, climate neutrality is defined for Munich as reducing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions within the city area to 0.3 tons of CO₂ equivalent per resident by 2035, which would translate into a maximum total of 524 kilo tons of CO₂ equivalent for the entire city, based on an estimated number of 1,748,000 inhabitants forecast for 2035.

¹ Bayerisches Versöhnungsgesetz II / Grundsatzbeschluss zur „Klimaneutralen Stadtverwaltung 2030 und weitere Maßnahmen zur Erreichung der „Klimaneutralität München 2050“ (Sitzungsvorlage Nr. 14-20 / V 16525))

² Bayerisches Versöhnungsgesetz II / Grundsatzbeschluss zur „Klimaneutralen Stadtverwaltung 2030“ und weitere Maßnahmen zur Erreichung der „Klimaneutralität München 2050“ (Sitzungsvorlage Nr. 14-20 / V 16525), 5. Paragraph 15 decides “Die Stadt München bewirbt sich auf EU-Fördermittel des Programmes „Klima-neutrale“ Stadt“. This point references the city of Munich's early knowledge of the Mission before its inception at EU-level, via Munich's participation of the cities consultation group of Eurocities to the Mission Board in 2019.



As a baseline, the emissions inventory from 2018 is used as a point for relative comparison. In 2018, the CO₂ equivalent of calculated emissions per resident was 5.34 tons. The number of inhabitants in 2018 was 1,542,211. The total GHG-emissions calculated for Munich in 2018 therefore reached 8,235 kilo tons of CO₂ equivalent. This means Munich aims to achieve a reduction of GHG-emissions of over 94% by 2035, compared to the 2018 baseline.

In line with the EU Cities Mission requirements, this covers the entire city territory and all districts, Scope-1 and Scope-2 emissions for stationary energy and transport domains, Scope-1 and Scope-3 emissions for the waste and wastewater domain as well as a plan to address residual emissions.

Reaching this target requires continuous commitment of all relevant stakeholders, as well as multi-level support from European, Federal, and Regional (“Länder”) level. The Landeshauptstadt München (LHM) will lead by example and achieve climate neutrality by 2030 for all municipal operations under local government control.

3 Strategic priorities

While Munich’s transformation towards climate-neutrality can only be achieved by including all stakeholders and considering all sectors and activities that directly or indirectly impact Munich’s GHG emissions, six action areas stand out for immediate and decisive priority implementation, as they evidently make up the lion’s share of Munich’s opportunities to reduce GHG-emissions.

Refurbish Buildings: *Reduction of heat demand in residential and non-residential buildings.*

The heating sector plays a crucial role, as it is responsible for around a third of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to increase the rate of energy-efficient refurbishment (KfW EH 55 standard) to 2.5 % annually.

Decarbonize District Heat Grid: *Development of climate-neutral district heating energy generation.*

The transition to climate-neutral district heating using geothermal energy is essential to reduce emissions in the heating sector. The targets focus on replacing fossil fuels with geothermal energy and centralised heat pumps. Additional preparations need to be made to include climate-neutral hydrogen as a contribution to the district heating grid’s renewable energy mix after 2035.

Replace Fossil Heating: *Replacing oil and gas with district heat and decentralized renewable energy.*

The energy grid needs to be expanded and densified to achieve a climate-neutral market share of 45% by 2035 and as much as 70% by 2050. The remaining energy demand is to be covered by decentralized renewable sources like local heat, heat pumps or other renewable energy options.



Generate Renewable Power: *Expansion of renewable electricity generation in the city area.*

Renewable energy generation in the urban area aims to cover around 20 to 25 percent of total electricity demand by 2050. This means expanding photovoltaics by at least 50-megawatt peak capacity per year between 2025 and 2030.

Decarbonize the Economy: *Transition to climate neutrality in the business sector.*

About 40% of GHG-emissions in Munich results from business activity. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the private sector by 75% compared to 2018 levels, strengthening the support for businesses to rapidly implement transformation measures, increasing energy efficiency by utilizing waste heat and decoupling economic productivity from fossil-fuels and GHG-emissions.

Transform Transportation: *Transforming Munich's transport system towards eco-mobility.*

Climate-friendly transport relies on expanding all forms of eco-mobility, particularly local public transport, walking and cycling, while reducing reliance on motorized individual vehicles and simultaneously phasing out combustion engines. One goal is the share of public transport in Munich's modal split to 30% by 2030 by expanding public transport availability with a focus on enhancing rail-based infrastructure and converting a significant proportion of vehicles to emission-free drives via incentive programs as well as the expansion of Munich's EV-charging infrastructure.

Tackling these systemic activity shifts is not a simple task to be implemented by an individual stakeholder. All these areas require the collaboration of administration, businesses, civil society, and research communities as well as the support of residents. It is therefore imperative that the transition to climate neutrality not only focuses on cutting emissions at all costs, but to transform Munich into a better city for all its inhabitants, making it more liveable, equitable, productive, and ecological.



4 Liveable, Equitable, Productive, and Ecological

While the goal to transition to climate-neutrality lies at the heart and centre of the Munich Climate Mission and is an unnegotiable imperative to ensure the long-term survival of humanity, it is not the only important goal to be achieved. Munich continuously strives to be an excellent place to “live, work and play” for all citizens, and transitioning to climate neutrality should go hand in hand with these important goals. Therefore, “co-benefits” of climate mitigation are a key component of the EU Cities Mission and the Munich Climate Mission, referring to the various additional advantages and synergies that emerge from efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change to improve other important aspects of Munich. If designed well, most initiatives’ climate efforts yield significant positive outcomes for society, the economy, and the environment. Where there are trade-offs between these goals, they must be carefully managed and compensated in combination with other efforts for overall positive improvements. The transformation of the city to reach “net zero” in terms of emissions, must be a “net positive” force of change for the city as a whole and for all its people by making Munich more:

Liveable: Climate action implemented in Munich will make the city a better place to live by creating a healthier, more sustainable, and vibrant environment for its residents. Energy-efficient buildings and the integration of renewable energy sources reduce utility costs and improve indoor air quality, contributing to better health and comfort. Expanding public transport, cycling infrastructure, and pedestrian-friendly zones reduces traffic congestion and air pollution, making moving around the city safer and more enjoyable. Green spaces and nature-based solutions make the city more beautiful and improve the health of citizens, while also improving biodiversity and creating cooler and more enjoyable outdoor environments. Together, these initiatives foster a higher quality of life, making Munich an even more attractive and liveable city for all.

Equitable: The Munich Climate Mission fosters greater equitability by ensuring that all residents benefit from a more inclusive and just city. In housing, the development of affordable, energy-efficient homes helps reduce the energy burden on low-income families, ensuring that everyone has access to comfortable and sustainable living conditions. In transportation, the expansion of affordable and accessible public transport options ensures that all residents, regardless of socioeconomic status, can move around the city efficiently and affordably, reducing reliance on private vehicles. Regarding affordability, the shift to renewable energy sources can stabilize and potentially lower energy costs, making utilities more affordable for all households. These measures collectively ensure that the benefits of climate action are shared equitably, promoting social inclusion and justice in the city's transformation towards climate neutrality.



Productive: Transforming Munich towards climate neutrality enhances the city's economic productivity and competitiveness. Shifting to renewable energy sources reduces dependency on fossil fuels, stabilizes energy costs, and attracts investments in green infrastructure. Munich as an innovation hub benefits from the opportunities of a transition to climate-neutrality for the development and adoption of cutting-edge green technologies, strengthening the already fast-growing green economy sector in Munich and creating attractive high-quality jobs for all citizens. Furthermore, by promoting a circular economy, Munich builds resilience against global supply chain disruptions, ensuring a sustainable material resource basis as a reliable economic foundation for well-being. The Munich Climate Mission efforts collectively position Munich as a leader in sustainable urban development, capable of thriving in a rapidly changing global economy.

Ecological: Fostering climate neutrality and resilience through green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions significantly enhances the city's ecological sustainability, promotes biodiversity by creating habitats for various species and supporting healthy urban ecosystems. Green infrastructure also serves as natural cooling systems, mitigating the urban heat island effect and providing natural flood management, which helps the city adapt to climate change. Parks, green roofs, and urban gardens improve air quality and offer residents recreational spaces, contributing to their overall well-being. This is in line with Munich's Climate Statute³:

“§ 1 Socially Just Climate Protection and Climate Adaptation as Cross-Cutting Tasks

- (1) On December 18, 2019, the City of Munich declared a climate emergency for the Munich city area and adjusted its climate goals to align with the Paris Climate Agreement.
- (2) The city and its municipal companies, within the scope of their responsibilities, independently contribute to the implementation of these adjusted climate goals.
- (3) Climate protection and climate adaptation are considered in all planning, measures, and decisions of the city and its municipal companies, taking into account the applicable legal frameworks at the EU, federal, and state levels.
- (4) Climate protection is always linked to social justice. Munich implements its climate goals sustainably. This means in a manner that is socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable in the long term. In doing so, they are guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- (5) Citizens and Munich businesses are involved in achieving the climate goals according to their individual economic capabilities.”

³ Satzung zur Umsetzung sozial gerechter Klimaziele auf dem Gebiet der Landeshauptstadt München (KlimaS).



5 Governance and Engagement of Stakeholders

Effective engagement of stakeholders and citizens is crucial for achieving climate neutrality and fostering a collaborative approach to climate action in Munich. Transparent and accessible information forms the foundation for informed public discourse, enabling diverse voices to contribute to the conversation around climate strategies. As a formal mechanism, Munich established a Climate Council via a dedicated Climate Council Statute⁴ in 2021, clearly specifying the tasks, rights, and composition of the Munich Climate Council.

“§ 1 Tasks of the Climate Council

(1) The Climate Council of the City of Munich (city) comments on fundamental decisions of the city regarding climate protection and serves as a critical and constructive companion and advisor to the honorary city council and the administration of the City of Munich in the further development of the city's climate strategy.

(2) The Climate Council also supports communication between the public, science, politics, and administration regarding the city's climate protection efforts and facilitates public and professional discussions about the goals and criteria of the city's climate protection policy within civil society.

The Climate Council covers all key stakeholder groups and plays a pivotal role in Munich's climate governance system, representing the voices and expertise of each group via a formal institution.

§ 3 Composition of the Climate Council

(1) The Climate Council consists of ex officio and appointed members from politics, administration, science, business, and civil society.

In addition to the existing governance structures in Munich, the EU Cities Mission calls for the creation and institutionalization of a dedicated **Transition Team**⁵. Through the Transition Team, the Munich Climate Mission aims to engage key change makers and stakeholders with the ability to co-create and implement concrete solutions for systemic climate action, to be taken up in the Action Plan and Investment Plan. By facilitating close collaboration among stakeholders, the municipality can help reduce bureaucratic barriers, create spaces for engagement, and enable the formation of new

⁴ Satzung zur Einführung eines Klimarates der Landeshauptstadt München (KlimaratS).

⁵ 'Transition Playbook'.



Commitment



partnerships and joint projects that align with Munich's climate goals. As stakeholders learn and work together, they become empowered change agents within their communities. This shift from a government-centric to a stakeholder-led governance model allows local climate action to thrive beyond traditional governmental structures. Ultimately, the Munich Climate Mission seeks to create a shared framework for climate action that builds on existing institutions, empowers public discourse, informs policy, and inspires collective efforts toward a sustainable future in Munich.



6 Principles for Action

The existing City Council resolutions outline guidelines for Munich's journey towards climate neutrality, forming the basis of the Munich Climate Mission's actions fields. The guidelines go beyond the narrow scope of the quantifiable climate mitigation targets and include actions on Scope-3 emissions and circularity as well as climate adaptation, including a neighbourhood level approach. These guidelines continue to serve as foundation for Munich's journey towards climate neutrality, throughout an agile and stakeholder-driven iteration process of the Action Plan and Investment Plan of the Climate City Contract.

1) **Streamline Governance and Empower Stakeholders to better Implement Established**

Strategies and Plans: The Munich Climate Mission thoroughly maps and analyses the diverse ecosystem of actors, plans, strategies, measures, actions, and projects currently in place. This comprehensive assessment fosters a shared understanding among all stakeholders regarding Munich's journey toward climate neutrality. By highlighting achievements, progress, shortcomings, and weaknesses within the city's climate protection framework, the Munich Climate Mission empowers various stakeholders to engage more effectively, collaborate seamlessly, and make meaningful contributions to the city's climate neutrality objectives.

2) **Make the Climate Neutrality Transition Visible, Understandable, and Accessible to All:**

The Munich Climate Mission will work to ensure that information and data related to climate mitigation actions are presented in an accessible, interactive, coherent, and understandable manner. Understanding the cause-and-effect relationships of climate mitigation actions across stationary energy, transportation, the economy, and lifestyles can be quite challenging. Keeping abreast of detailed expert reports, council decisions, and physical developments within the city is difficult even for seasoned professionals. By reducing access barriers to key information, the Munich Climate Mission aims to enhance governance and facilitate meaningful discussions about climate neutrality among both experts and the general public.

3) **Adopt a Mission Economy Approach⁶ and Foster Institutional Innovation:**

Engage stakeholders from business, civil society, research, and administration in a horizontally integrated governance process that redefines the roles and capacities of government within the economy and society, while reinstating a strong sense of public purpose. This collaborative framework is essential for creating streamlined and effective project implementation and financing structures for climate action initiatives. Transforming Munich into a climate-neutral city will require the execution

⁶ Mariana Mazzucato, 2021: *Mission Economy*.



of hundreds of measures and thousands of individual actions and projects within a decade. Implementation is only possible if project development follows a streamlined, robust, and rapidly replicable approach to project development.

- 4) Leverage Multi-Level Support and Engage European and National Entities:** Achieving climate neutrality by 2035 as a frontrunner among German and European cities is a goal that Munich cannot accomplish independently. To realize this ambition, Munich must collaborate closely with the European Commission, other European institutions, and German federal or Bavarian ministries in a vertically integrated approach. Key challenges that require resolution across these levels of government include regulatory innovation, the establishment of regulatory sandboxes, bridging the significant financing gap for the climate transition, and securing direct political support and effective communication. The Munich Climate Mission will actively promote advocacy and communication efforts to foster agile and effective partnerships among governmental entities at various levels, ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive response to the climate crisis.

- 5) Pursue Climate Neutrality as a Universal Socio-Economic Goal and Foster Interconnected Solutions:** Climate change is not a single environmental issue; it impacts everyone and intersects with every other major societal challenge, including health, social policy, migration, food, shelter, security, and economic development. By clarifying these connections and leveraging effective climate policies for broader societal goals, more people will promote and benefit from the transformation to climate neutrality. Civil society plays a crucial role in highlighting these intersections and linking them to political demands as well as economic and financial decisions. Collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders from government, economy, civil society and research and innovation is essential for driving comprehensive climate action.



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Landeshauptstadt München

Referat für Klima- und Umweltschutz

Bayerstraße 28

80335 München

muenchen.de/rku

E-Mail: mission@muenchen.de

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7 Signatories

The table below lists the signatories⁷ who are committing to this CCC via the attached commitments (*Selbstverpflichtungen*), and thereby help the city achieve its goal to reach climate neutrality by 2035. Each signatory thereby acknowledges the Commitment Document in its entirety and supports it in good faith, while remaining solely responsible for their own contribution as explicitly stated in their commitment (*Selbstverpflichtung*).

Institution	Signatories	Function
Landeshauptstadt München	Dominik Krause	2 nd Mayor
/	Stephan Pauleit	Member of the Climate Council
MCube	Oliver May-Beckmann	Member of the Climate Council
/	Dr. Kai Zosseder	Member of the Climate Council
IG Metall München	Sibylle Wankel	Member of the Climate Council
Sustainable AG	Jan-Marten Krebs	Member of the Climate Council
/	Brigitte Helmreich	Member of the Climate Council
/	Hannah Witting	Member of the Climate Council
/	Norbert Ammann	Member of the Climate Council

⁷ Climate City Contract signatories may be individuals or organisations. They can either contribute an individual commitment or joint commitments with other stakeholders on specific issues, actions, or subjects. There is no limit to how many commitments a signatory can contribute, nor a limit to the signatures for any given commitment. All commitments are collected and added as annexes to this Commitment Document of the Munich Climate City Contract, followed by the Action Plan and Investment Plan.



/	Katharina Horn	Member of the Climate Council
/	Dr. Caroline Fischer	Member of the Climate Council
/	Lena Willimek	Member of the Climate Council
/	Jürgen Stephan	Member of the Climate Council
/	Nora Holz	Member of the Climate Council
/	Ramon Arndt	Member of the Climate Council
Hochschule München	Prof. Dr. Martin Leitner Prof. Dr. Klaus Kreulich Jörg Finger	Präsident Vizepräsident Kanzler
UnternehmerTUM	Prof. Dr. Helmut Schönenberger Stefan Drüssler	CEO COO
Bürgerwärme for Future e.V.	Michael Seyfried	Vorstand
Technische Universität München	Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kramer Prof. Dr. Werner Lang	Geschäftsführender Vizepräsident Vizepräsident
Münchenstift GmbH	Andreas Lackner	Geschäftsführer



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Bauinnung München-Ebersberg	Laura Lammel	Obermeisterin
Solar2030 e.V.	Bernd Bötzel	Vorstand
Munich Climate Week	Andreas Neubauer, Constance Perez, Gyri Reiersen, Jael Perez, Julian Schmidt, Kat Wörner, Mariana Pedraza Copete	Founding Members